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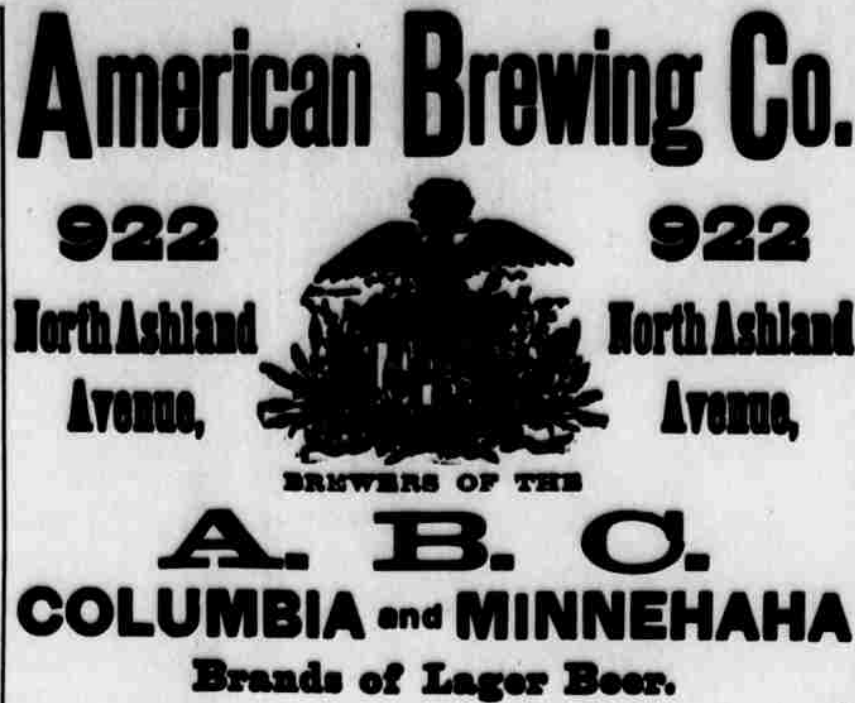
Export Beer



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ROMANCE OF A DIAMOND.

History of a Unique and Decidedly Famous Gem.

The Hope diamond is for sale, so the cable informs us. That greatest of all blue diamonds is to be disposed of by the trustees of the bankrupt estate of Lord Francis Hope, known to Burke and to the peerage as the brother of the Duke of Newcastle, but nearer and dearer to the public heart as the husband of the winsome, the eccentric, the fascinating May Yoke. It is said that the trustees have refused \$20,000, offered for the stone by an American. But it is understood that they would accept \$24,000.

The Hope diamond is unique in every way. To begin with, it is the only large blue diamond known to the jeweler of to-day. It weighs 44 1/4 karats. There is an almost ridiculous fall from this to the 10 1/2 karats of the Brunswick blue stone. Yet the Brunswick stone comes next in size among this species of diamond. And the Brunswick stone is itself believed to have formed a part of the—but we are anticipating.

The history of the Hope diamond is full of bewildering romance, marvel and mystery. Let us begin at the beginning. In the year 1666 the famous traveler and jeweler, Jean Baptiste Tavernier, came back to Paris from his last tour in the diamond countries of the orient. He brought with him twenty-five diamonds, all of which he sold to Louis XIV. for half a million dollars. The grand monarch was so pleased with his bargain that he threw in the title of Baron d'Aubonne, which Tavernier wore to his death.

Among the brilliants was a blue diamond, still in the rough, weighing 112 1/2 karats. It was a magnificent specimen, but being flat and ill formed, was considerably reduced in the cutting, after which it weighed only 67 1/4 karats. On the historic occasion when Louis XIV. in 1715, welcomed to his presence the recently arrived Persian ambassador, the aged monarch's clothes were ablaze with jewelry valued at the incredible sum of \$12,000,000, and the blue diamond, the most valued brilliant of all his gems, hung by a blue string around his neck.

The Tavernier diamond was among the crown jewels captured by the French revolutionists in 1792. All were deposited in the Garde Meuble. At this time it appears that further cutting had reduced the Tavernier to 67 1/4 karats. Still it was the most coveted prize of all. It mysteriously disappeared. For almost half a century nothing was heard of it.

Suddenly, in the year 1830, a blue diamond of 44 1/4 karats appeared unheralded on the market. Nothing was known of its history. Its owner, Daniel Eliason, had bought it from a stranger, so his story ran. He had asked no questions and he could answer none. Henry Thomas Hope, the famous banker, purchased the stone from Eliason. The rumored price was \$18,000, which was considered far less than its value. It has ever since been known as the Hope diamond, and has been greatly admired as a combination of the beautiful blue of the sapphire with the prismatic fire and sparkle of the diamond.

Now the unexplained appearance of this unique specimen upon the market set wisecracks to thinking. It was obvious that the purloiner of the Tavernier diamond would never have dared to dispose of it in its original shape. What more natural than that he should have reduced it by cleavage to two or more pieces, first selling off the smaller piece or pieces and finally the larger?

—New York Herald.

Running a Western Bank.
It was a new bank in a new town in Colorado. As the "institution" opened for business in the morning a crowd of 200 men gathered, and when the banker asked what was wanted the man who had been appointed spokesman replied:

"It's jest this, Jim: We can't make out that monthly statement you got out yesterday."

"What's wrong with it?"

"She says deposits amount to \$7,000 and cash on hand \$9,000."

"Well, that's correct and I can't see where you have any fault to find," said the president.

"Yes, but the boys don't go much on figures. Figgers kin be twisted all around, you know. Have you got them 'ere \$9,000 handy by?"

"I have."

"Waal, won't you jest stand up on a chair and wave that money in the air a few times and let the boys see the color of it? Don't want to put you to any special trouble, you know, but the crowd kinder wants to feel sure about it."

The banker got the money from the safe and followed the suggestion and asked if they were satisfied.

"That's all right," replied the spokesman. "We ain't much on figures, but we know money when we see it. Them deposits is \$7,000, and you've got \$9,000 to pay 'em. That's chuck up and no discount!"

"Anything else?"

"Jest one little tride. It's kinder got a-rod town that you are goin' to Montana tomorrow. Before you start jest count them \$9,000 into the safe, lock 'er up as tight as a drum, and then call in two or three of the boys to watch 'er while you're gone. We ain't showin' any lack of confidence, Jim, but we are givin' you a pointer on how to run a bank in this town without gettin' yer neck into a slipknot!"—Detroit Free Press.

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COOKE'S IMPERIAL BEER.

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CHARLES J. VOPIKA, Pres't. OTTO KUBIN, Treas. and Sec'y.

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